

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A site switch determines the mapping between public and private IP addresses of VIPs configured on the site switch. The site switch then transmits the public IP address, rather than the private IP address, to a load balancing switch that performs the load balancing for network resources accessible via the site switch. This public IP address has also been configured on an authoritative DNS server for which the load balancing switch serves as a proxy. The load balancing switch updates its address records, containing the VIPs configured on the site switch, with the public address of the VIP. When the load balancing switch reorders a DNS reply from the authoritative DNS server for a domain containing the public address, the load balancing switch correctly identifies the IP address as a VIP on the site switch and applies appropriate load balancing metrics to the received IP address.

407125\_1.DOC